

CLAIMS:

I Claim

1. A frame assembly for at least one object to be displayed, comprising:

5 a frame including a front panel and a rear panel spaced from said front panel to define a space therebetween for receiving an object to be displayed, at least one of said front and rear panels having a transparent area for viewing said object;

10 said front panel having a substantially planar portion and retaining members formed along edges of said front panel including at least two opposed edges of said front panel; and

15 each of said retaining members including an extension portion extending rearward relative to said substantially planar portion and an inwardly projecting ridge formed on an inward surface of said extension portion, said rear panel being arranged to fit snugly between said ridges and a rear surface of said front panel.

2. The frame assembly of claim 1, wherein both said front panel and said rear panel have transparent areas for viewing said
20 at least one object to be displayed.

3. The frame assembly of claim 1, wherein said front and rear panels are substantially rectangular, and said retaining members extend along all four edges of said front panel, said retaining member along at least one of said edges of said front panel extending only across a portion of a length of said at least one edge of said front panel.

4. The frame assembly of claim 3, wherein said retaining member along said at least one edge is spaced from said retaining members along adjacent edges of said front panel to thereby define access openings between said retaining member along said at least one edge and said retaining members along said adjacent edges.

5. The frame assembly of claim 4, wherein said rear panel includes fingernail or fingertip grips alongside said access openings.

6. The frame assembly of claim 1, wherein said ridges are spaced from said rear surface of said front panel by a distance substantially equal to or only slightly larger than a thickness of said rear panel such that said rear panel fits between said ridges and said rear surface of said front panel with only a

nominal clearance for a thickness of the an object to be displayed.

7. The frame assembly of claim 1, further comprising a support device arranged to support said frame in a substantially upright position.

8. The frame assembly of claim 7, wherein said support device comprises a base for supporting said frame, said base defining a channel receivable of an edge portion of said frame, said frame being removably attachable to said base.

9. The frame assembly of claim 8, wherein said base comprises a support wall having a substantially planar lower surface adapted to rest on a support surface.

10. The frame assembly of claim 8, wherein said base comprises a support wall and spaced-apart, parallel retaining walls extending upward from an upper surface of said support wall and defining said channel therebetween.

11. The frame assembly of claim 10, wherein said base further includes securing means for removably securing said frame to said base.

12. The frame assembly of claim 11, wherein said securing means comprise a snap-fit rib formed on an inward surface of one of said retaining walls facing the other of said retaining walls at a position at which it engages a rear edge of said extension
5 portion of one of said retaining members on said edge portion of said frame when said frame is positioned in said channel.

13. The frame assembly of claim 11, wherein said securing means comprise a snap-fit recess formed on an inward surface of one of said retaining walls facing the other of said retaining
10 walls at a position at which it receives said extension portion of one of said retaining members on said edge portion of said frame when said frame is positioned in said channel.

14. The frame assembly of claim 10, wherein a first one of said retaining walls is arranged at a longitudinal edge of said
15 base and angled rearward and a second one of said retaining walls is arranged inward from said first retaining wall and angled rearward.

15. The frame assembly of claim 8, wherein said base has a substantially semi-cylindrical form and comprises a pair of
20 arcuate walls having substantially flat lower edges co-planar with one another and upper edges situated opposite one another to

define said channel therebetween, and side walls connected to lateral edges of said arcuate walls, said side walls having substantially flat lower edges co-planar with said lower edges of said arcuate walls to provide a flat support surface to enable
5 said base to be supported on a planar support, said side walls each including a cut-out arranged to accommodate said edge portion of said frame.

16. The frame assembly of claim 15, wherein said cut-outs each include a snap-fit portion arranged to receive said ridge
10 and an adjoining portion of said extension portion of one of said retaining members in said edge portion of said frame when said edge portion of said frame is positioned in said channel to thereby secure said retaining member at least partially between said snap-fit portion and a bottom surface of said cut-out.

15 17. The frame assembly of claim 7, wherein said support device comprises at least one prop formed in connection with said rear panel along a respective side of said rear panel, each of said at least one prop being pivotable about a fold or score line in said rear panel between a first position in which said at
20 least one prop is situated between said ridge of one of said retaining members and said rear surface of said front panel and a second position apart from said front panel to define a support

surface at a distance from said front panel.

18. The frame assembly of claim 17, wherein said at least one prop comprises two substantially triangular props.

5 19. The frame assembly of claim 17, wherein said at least one prop is flush with a remaining portion of said rear panel when in said first position.

10 20. The frame assembly of claim 17, wherein each of said at least one prop includes a cut-out to enable pivotal movement of said at least one prop from the first position to the second position.

15 21. The frame assembly of claim 17, further comprising at least one wall mount integrally formed in said rear panel on a side of said rear panel without one of said at least one prop, each of said at least one wall mount including a projection extending outward from a rear surface of said rear panel.

22. The frame assembly of claim 1, further comprising at least one wall mount integrally formed in said rear panel on a side of said rear panel, each of said at least one wall mount including a projection extending outward from a rear surface of

said rear panel.

23. A frame for holding and displaying at least one object to be displayed, comprising:

a rear panel having a score or fold line and being flexible
5 about said score or fold line to thereby define two interconnected rear panel sections, one on each side of said score or fold line; and

a pair of front panels, each front panel being engagable with a respective one of said rear panel sections, each of said
10 front panels having a planar portion and retaining members formed along edges of said front panel not adjacent said score or fold line, each of said retaining members including an extension portion extending rearward relative to said planar portion and an inwardly projecting ridge formed on an inward surface of said
15 extension portion, a respective one of said rear panel sections being arranged to fit snugly between said ridges and a rear surface of said front panel,

at least one of said front and rear panels having a transparent area for viewing an object to be displayed.

20 24. The frame of claim 23, wherein said retaining member along at least one of said edges of each of said front panels extends only across a portion of a length of said at least one

edge of said front panel and is spaced from said retaining members along any adjacent edges of said front panel to thereby define access openings between said retaining member along said at least one edge and said retaining members along said adjacent edges.

25. The frame of claim 23, wherein said front panels are slidable over the respective one of said rear panel sections relative to said score or fold line.

26. The frame of claim 23, wherein said retaining members are structured and arranged to enable said frame to be supported by said retaining members on a substantially flat support surface.

27. The frame of claim 23, wherein said rear panel is substantially rectangular, and said front panels are each substantially rectangular.

28. A frame assembly for holding and displaying at least one object to be displayed, comprising:

an X-shaped frame said frame comprising two frame sections, each of said frame sections including a front panel and a rear panel spaced from said front panel to define a space therebetween

for receiving the at least one object to be displayed, at least one of said front and rear panels having a transparent window for viewing an object to be displayed;

said front panel having a substantially planar portion and retaining members formed along edges of said front panel including at least two opposed edges of said front panel;

each of said retaining members including an extension portion extending rearward relative to said planar portion and an inwardly projecting ridge formed on an inward surface of said extension portion, said rear panel being arranged to fit snugly between said ridges and a rear surface of said front panel; and

said frame sections including cooperating slots to enable said frame sections to mate with one another to form an 2-shape.

29. The frame assembly of claim 28, wherein a first one of said frame sections includes a slot extending upward from a lower edge through both said front and rear panels, and a second one of said frame sections includes a slot extending downward from an upper edge through both said front and rear panels.

30. The frame assembly of claim 28, wherein both said front and rear panels have transparent windows for viewing objects to be displayed.

31. The frame assembly of claim 28, wherein said front and rear panels are substantially rectangular and said retaining members extend along all four edges of said front panels, said retaining member along at least one of said edges of each of said front panels extending only across a portion of a length of said at least one edge of said front panel and being spaced from said retaining members along adjacent edges of said front panel to thereby define access openings between said retaining member along said at least one edge and said retaining members along said adjacent edges.

32. The frame assembly of claim 28, further comprising a base, and wherein said base comprises a plurality of pairs of opposed retaining walls each defining a channel receivable of an edge portion of said frame to support said frame.

33. The frame assembly of claim 32, wherein said base further comprises a substantially circular lower support, a substantially circular upper support spaced from said lower support to define a cavity therebetween, a ring retaining a plurality of ball bearings movably arranged in the cavity between the upper and lower supports and an inner ring attached to said upper support and movable relative to said lower support such that said upper support and lower support can rotate relative to

one another about said ball bearings in said retaining ring.

34. The frame assembly of claim 32, wherein said base further includes a lower support and an upper support rotatably connected to said lower support, said upper support defining said
5 retaining walls.

35. A frame assembly for at least one object to be displayed, comprising:

an intermediate panel;

10 a front panel and a rear panel each spaced from said intermediate panel to define a respective space therebetween for receiving an object to be displayed, at least one of said front and rear panels having a transparent area for viewing an object;

15 said intermediate panel having a substantially planar portion and retaining members formed along edges of said intermediate panel including at least two opposed edges of said intermediate panel; and

20 each of said retaining members including a rear extension portion extending rearward relative to said substantially planar portion and an inwardly projecting ridge formed on an inward surface of said rear extension portion, said rear panel being arranged to fit snugly between said ridges of said rear extension portion and a rear surface of said intermediate panel;

each of said retaining members also including a front extension portion extending forward relative to said substantially planar portion and an inwardly projecting ridge formed on a inward surface of said front extension portion, said front panel being arranged to fit snugly between said ridges of
5 said front extension portion and a front surface of said intermediate panel.

36. The frame assembly of claim 35, wherein said intermediate panel and said front and rear panels are all
10 substantially rectangular, and said retaining members extend along all four edges of said intermediate panel, said retaining member along at least one of said edges of said intermediate panel extending only across a portion of a length of said at least one edge of said intermediate panel.

15 37. The frame assembly of claim 36, wherein said retaining member along said at least one edge is spaced from said retaining members along adjacent edges of said intermediate panel to thereby define access openings between said retaining member along said at least one edge and said retaining members along
20 said adjacent edges.

38. The frame assembly of claim 37, wherein said front and rear panels each include fingernail or fingertip grips alongside said access openings.

5 39. The frame assembly of claim 35, wherein said ridges are spaced from surfaces of said front and rear panels by a distance substantially equal to or only slightly larger than a thickness of said front and rear panels such that said front and rear panels fit between said respective ridges and said intermediate panel with only a nominal clearance for a thickness of the an
10 object to be displayed.

40. The frame assembly of claim 35, further comprising a support device arranged to support said intermediate, front and rear panels in an substantially upright position when said front and rear panels are engaged with said intermediate panels.